

I hope you have enjoyed the E-Bulletin Focus on Business over the past six months. Today's edition will be the last one until Council reconvenes in September. I hope you all enjoy a safe and fun-filled summer.

SmartCentres Site Plan Approved

On Monday June 30th after numerous revisions to the Smart-Centres Site Plan, Council finally approved the west end project to proceed. As part of the site plan agreement a cash payment of \$250,000 will be forwarded to the Township as a contribution to the Downtown Port Perry Strategy. As well, new signage will be placed on site at the West End highlighting our Historic Downtown. Among the many negotiated enhancements to the original plan were the deeding of the Cawker's Creek Valley lands to the Township along with a \$100,000 contribution to the Parks Reserve Fund, increased infiltration areas in the parking lot, a Living Wall as part of the treatment of the 6th line, water services to the property line for future servicing to the Industrial Park, sidewalks along Highway 7A to the site and road improvements to the 6th Concession. The developers can now move to the building permit stage but it will probably be a while yet until the stores are actually built as site servicing along Highway 7A must occur prior to any store openings.

Capital Budget Up-Date

Council recently received an up-date on this year's capital budget and below is a summary of some of the major projects and the timing for completion:

- Paxton St. Reconstruction: Fall of 2008
- King St. (Prince Albert) resurfacing & sidewalks: Fall of 2008
- Up-grades to Cawker's Cove Rd., Fralick's Beach Rd., Old Scugog Rd., Pine Point Rd., Pogue Rd.: Late summer 2008
- Palmer Park Playground & Splash Pad: August 2008
- New Fire Pumper Truck: July 2008
- New Motor Grader: September 2008

May Building Permit Activity:

Building activity continues to enjoy a robust growth pattern in May. The Township at this point has issued over 94 building permits with a value of approximately \$60 million as compared to 2007 when 101 permits were issued with a value of \$7.2 million and in 2006 - 109 permits were issued with a value of \$10.7 million. The bulk of the value comes from the condo development on Perry Street and without it we would be tracking similar to 2006 and 2007. It is expected our building year will continue to show strong results even though the residential housing sector SFD has only seen 32 permits issued it is up as well from this time last year when a total of 15 had been taken out (29 in 2006). Market Watch a publication of the Toronto Real Estate Board shows Scugog with an average house price of \$315,840 in April of this year which is down slightly from a year ago but is still the third highest price in the region of Durham behind Uxbridge and Pickering.

Tourism Events

The month of June saw much activity in Scugog with many visitors enjoying our Waterfront and Downtown. A hugely successful Dragon Boat Festival followed by a perfect evening for the BIA's Moonlight Madness and last but certainly not least our wonderful Canada Day celebration brought to us by the Chamber of Commerce. A great addition to Canada Day was the Support the Troops Parade brought to us by Legion members Lucy Wilson, Geoff Taylor, along with Rik Davie, and Councillor Hodgson. Tourism is a significant part of our local economy and while it is very hard to determine the exact number of jobs created by this sector, in Ontario it is estimated over 300,000 are employed and it is the top employer of young people. One thing for sure our community benefits from the visitor's dollars both from the money they spend on sundry items to the money they contribute to the various charity events they support. Did you know the largest source of tourists in Durham Region is made up of visiting Friends and Relatives? The Township is continuing to build our Tourist web-site and if you are looking for something to do please visit: www.scugog.ca/tourism.

Official Plan Moves to Next Step

For the past year the Township has been moving through the process of up-dating our Official Plan. Numerous background papers have

been prepared and published for public comments. These documents include a Planning Issues Report, A Growth Management Report, An Environmental Paper, a Downtown Strategy, a Rural Character Paper, a Commercial Policy Review, and a Sustainability Paper. As well, the Port Perry Employment Area Secondary Plan for the Industrial Area was passed. We are now coming to the end of the Official Plan Update and staff presented the **Planning Directions Report** on June 30th that Council recommended be released for public comment until October 3rd. This report pulls it all together into 19 specific directions to be implemented into the new Official Plan. As part of the final consultations, two public workshops will be held in September before the final directions are considered by Council. The workshops will review the foundation principles on which the planning policies are built. You can review the Planning Directions Report on the Township web-site or at the Municipal Office or Library. Also, a CD with all Background Reports is available from the Planning Department. Someone recently stated to me that the planning of the town has been taken over by financial interests and all I could say is that the Planning of the Township is only as strong as the policies within the Official Plan. Council is dealing with 1997 policies and times have changed so take the time to help us plan the community that we all want.

Heritage Conservation District Study Underway

A Heritage Conservation District Study for Downtown Port Perry was given the green light to proceed and now a Committee of Staff, building owners, a BIA representative and two members of Heritage Scugog will undertake the historical analysis and review of buildings in order to establish the boundaries of the District and important features to be preserved. The study will commence in the summer of 2008 and is expected to be completed by year-end. It will form the basis for new historical incentive programs and grants, new Urban Design Guidelines and finally serve as an important component of our Tourism strategy.

Durham Tourism Launches Go Green Workshops

Durham Tourism recently launched a series of *Go Green Workshops* for local tourism businesses in Durham Region. These workshops were developed in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism to promote a "Step Lightly" environmental component to not only tourist

events and attractions but also to conferences, meetings and other events. Participants were given a "Green Tourism Partner Tool Kit" to help find effective and efficient ways to save money as well as reducing, reusing, and recycling within their business.

For more information or to review the workshop presentations contact Durham Tourism at 1-800-413-0017 or email tourism@region.durham.on.ca or better yet visit their web-site to see all that is happening throughout the Region www.region.durham.on.ca.

Awards and Recognition:

Have you or your company received an award, or do you know a business in our community that has? Let us know and we will let others know of your success. Email mayorpearce@scugog.ca.

Upcoming Events:

July 3-5, 10-12, 17-19: The Music Man - Town Hall 1873 Centre for the Performing Arts

July 4 & 5: Blackstock Truck & Tractor Pull - Blackstock Fairgrounds

July 19: 12th Annual Mississaugas Pow Wow - Scugog Island

July 19: Dog Day of Summer - Museum grounds

July 25 & 26: Brocks Annual Tent Sale - Downtown Port Perry

August 10: Musicians Corn Roast - 4790 McKee Rd.

August 17: Rotary Club Aquarama 2008 - Port Perry Waterfront

August 22: Blackstock Demolition Derby - Blackstock Fairgrounds

August 23: Blackstock Fair

August 30 – Sept. 1: Port Perry Fair - Port Perry Fairgrounds

As well enjoy Concerts in the Park on Wednesdays from July 9 - August 13th and on Sundays throughout the summer. These shows begin at 7 pm and performers are listed on Township web-site.

On a parting note: Summer is here and I encourage you to Buy Local, Buy Fresh and support our Agricultural Industry, for more information on local product available visit www.durhamfarmfresh.ca.